



Port Community Information Bulletin # 09-05
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2189
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: June 1, 2005
Expiration Date: December 1, 2005

HURRICANE SEASON 2005

Hurricane season begins June 1st and continues through November 30th. With this in mind, it is time once again to make some preliminary plans. In preparation for this year's hurricane season, beginning on June 1st, Marine Safety Office Tampa will set Hurricane Condition Four within the Captain of the Port Tampa area of responsibility. In order to be better prepared and to avoid vessel, facility and environmental damage, vessel and facility operators should review their heavy weather contingency plans and make preparations as necessary.

Tampa Bay's location on the eastern edge of the Gulf of Mexico places it in a difficult position when hurricanes threaten the Tampa Bay Area. Therefore, in order to ensure a safe and timely evacuation of ports within the COTP Tampa zone, all oceangoing commercial vessels and barges over 500 gross tons within Tampa Bay shall make ready to put to sea and shall have departed the port beyond the sea buoy by Port Hurricane Condition Zulu (12 hours prior to the arrival of gale force winds). Any oceangoing commercial vessel or barge over 500 gross tons desiring to remain in port must request permission, in writing, from the COTP upon setting of a 72-hour alert.

Terminology used to classify port conditions will be used in order to establish continuity throughout Florida Area Ports. The PCIB's for the Port Conditions will be titled as follows:

Port Hurricane Condition

- Port Hurricane Condition Whiskey (72 HOUR ALERT)**
- Port Hurricane Condition X-Ray (48 HOUR ALERT)**
- Port Hurricane Condition Yankee (24 HOUR ALERT)**
- Port Hurricane Condition Zulu (12 HOUR ALERT)**

The request to remain in port must be submitted along with a Heavy Weather Vessel Lay-Up Plan. Recommendations to the COTP for vessel evacuation from Tampa will be made by the Tampa Bay Port Heavy Weather Advisory Group, which is comprised of a representative from the CG, Pilots Association, three Port Authorities, towing operators and pre-designated industry representatives within Tampa Bay. Shipping agents are requested to make their vessel owners/operators aware of these requirements.

/s/

J. M. FARLEY
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port